

Message Text

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15

ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 PER-01 OPR-01 A-01 SSO-00 /025 W

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R 160517Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8934

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PHNOM PENH 0896

FOR UNDER SECRETARY BROWN, THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, AND
ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB FROM AMBASSADOR DEAN

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: ALLOW CB

SUBJECT: CLASSIFICATION AND ALLOWANCES

1. IT IS NOW A YEAR SINCE THEN-CHARGE THOMAS O. ENDERS REQUESTED THE DEPARTMENT TO TAKE TWO ACTIONS WITH RESPECT TO EMBASSY PHNOM PENH: 1) THAT THE AMBASSADOR BE AUTHORIZED TO RECEIVE THE POST DIFFERENTIAL ALLOWANCE OF 25 PERCENT OF BASIC SALARY, AS IN THE CASE OF NEIGHBORING VIET-NAM, AND 2) THAT PHNOM PENH BE RAISED FROM A CLASS III TO A CLASS II POST.

2. THESE RECOMMENDATIONS WERE MADE BY CHANGE ENDERS AT A TIME WHEN ENEMY ACTION AGAINST THE CAPITAL OF PHNOM PENH WAS REACHING WHAT HAS COME TO BE AN ANNUAL HIGH POINT, WITH HUNDREDS OF ROCKETS BEING RECEIVED IN THE CITY IN THE VICINITY OF AMERICAN RESIDENCES. THE POINT WAS MADE THEN, AND HAS BEEN MADE SINCE BY ME AT THE DECEMBER CHIEFS OF MISSION CONVERENCE IN HONOLULU AND BY THE FOREIGN SERVICE INSPECTORS THAT NO LESS THAN ELEVEN AMERICANS SERVING AT THIS POST ARE PRECLUDED FROM RECEIVING THE FULL AMOUNT TO WHICH THEY WOULD BE ENTITLED BY LAW AND REGULATIONS BACAUSE THEY MAY NOT EXCEED THE SALARY RECEIVED BY THE AMBASSADOR. IN SHORT, THEY ARE BEING ASKED TO MAKE SACRIFICES IN FAMILY SEPARATION AND PHYSICAL HARDSHIP, POOR HEALTH CONDITIONS,
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EXTREMELY LONG WORKING HOURS WITH LITTLE OPPORTUNITY FOR

LEAVE TIME AS A RESULT OF THE CONGRESSIONALLY-IMPOSED
MANPOWER CEILING, PHYSICAL CONFINEMENT TO A CITY ENCLAVE
OF A FEW SQUARE MILES WITH VERY LIMITED OPPORTUNITIES
FOR RECREATION, AND NOW ONCE AGAIN THE TATTOO OF INCOMING
ROCKETS. BUT BEYOND THAT, THEY ARE EXPECTED TO RELINQUISH
A PORTION OF THE ALLOWANCES TO WHICH THEY SHOULD BE
ENTITLED IN EXCHANGE FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF SERVING UNDER
SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES. I CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THIS
IS AN UNJUST STATE OF AFFAIRS.

3. NOW THAT THE DRY SEASON CAMPAIGN IS AGAIN UPON US,
I WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE AN INDICATION OF THE DEPART-
MENT'S RESPONSE TO WHAT, IN MY OPINION, IS A HIGHLY
JUSTIFIED REQUEST, SO THAT I MAY SHARE IT WITH MY
COLLEAGUES OF THE SEVERAL AGENCIES.
DEAN

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